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crease during the paroxysm; in two other cases of mania there was a diminution of phosphates approaching to that occurring in delirium tremens. Bright's disease, even attended with acute inflammation, showed no increase. When only a few ounces of urine were secreted, as in dropsy, no increase was observed; and none also in a very extreme case of exostosis. In the case of mollities ossium, there was a decided increase of the earthy phosphates; and at last, the alkaline phosphates were also in excess, although there was no indication of affections of the nervous structures.

The following are the general conclusions which the author draws from his inquiries: first, that acute affections of the nervous substance, organic and functional, are the only diseases in which an excess of phosphatic salts appears in the urine; and in acute inflammation of the brain, its amount is proportional to the intensity of the inflammation; secondly, that in a large class of functional diseases of the brain, of which delirium tremens presents the most marked example, the secretion of phosphates is most remarkably diminished; and lastly, that no chronic disease exhibits any marked excess in the total quantity of phosphatic salts secreted, at least as far as the mode of analysis employed by the author can be regarded as conclusive.

“On the effects produced by Poisonous Fish on the Human Frame.” By Sir William Burnett, M.D., K.C.H., Vice-President of the Royal Society.

The author communicates a report which he lately received from Mr. Jameson, the surgeon of the flag ship at the Cape of Good Hope, of the rapidly fatal consequences ensuing from eating small portions of the liver of a fish, known at the Cape by the name of the *Bladder* or *Toad fish*, the *Aptodactylus punctatus*, or *Tetrodon* of Cuvier. The symptoms were chiefly pain and burning sensation at the epigastrium, constriction and spasm of the fauces and muscles of deglutition, rigidity of the tendons, coma, paralysis and convulsions, following one another in quick succession, and terminating in death within twenty minutes after the poisonous food had been taken. Several other instances of the same kind are next related; and a narrative is subjoined of the case of a seaman who lost his life, with similar symptoms, from the bite of a water snake in Madras roads; the *Coluber laticaudatus* of Linnæus (*Hydrus colubrinus* of Shaw); and also of a ship's company who were all severely affected by eating portions of a large *Banacuda* (*Perca major*).

The author ascribes the symptoms induced by these deleterious substances to their action on the nervous system alone, there being evidence of congestion only, but not of inflammation, in the stomach and other viscera.

“Further Researches on the Nervous System of the Uterus.” By Robert Lee, M.D., F.R.S., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians.

The author states, that on the 8th of April 1838, he discovered,

in dissecting a gravid uterus, structures which had a striking resemblance to ganglionic plexuses of nerves; and, in the following December, he traced, in another gravid uterus, the sympathetic and spinal nerves into these new structures. He requested several distinguished anatomists to examine these dissections, and to compare them with similar dissections of the unimpregnated uterus, which he had made in the course of the same year. He then quotes, at some length, the opinions given by these several referees after their examination; and which appear, for the most part, to be favourable to the views of the author, namely, that the structures in question are not mere fibrous tissues, but that they possess the character of nerves, and that they augment in size with the enlargement of the uterus during pregnancy. Among those to whom the preparations were submitted for examination, however, two persons declared it to be their opinion, which they founded on observations with the microscope, that the filaments regarded by the author as nerves, are bands of elastic tissue only, and not plexuses of nerves; and the author, on receiving this intimation, withdrew the paper which he had presented to the Royal Society, and which had been read on the 12th of December 1839, in which paper the appearances displayed in his dissections were minutely described and delineated.

The author next proceeds to give the history of his subsequent researches on the same subject, which he extended to the corresponding parts in some of the larger quadrupeds; and from all these he obtained accumulated evidence of the truth of his original opinions. He also adduces the testimony of various observers, in addition to those he had before cited, which are all in accordance with his own views, as they are expressed in his paper, printed in the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1841, an Appendix to which was published in the volume of the same work for 1842. Later observations and dissections have served only to confirm him in his opinions; and he considers them as establishing the fact that the nerves of the uterus are considerably enlarged during the gravid state of that organ.

The author concludes his paper by giving a report, drawn up by Mr. John Dalrymple, of the results of his microscopic examination of the uterine nerves in preparations furnished by the author, which tend to corroborate his views.